

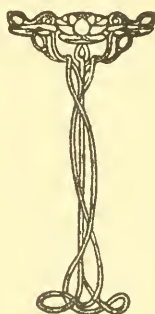
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# HOW ROOSEVELT STOPPED THE WAR

BY  
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# How Roosevelt Stopped the War.

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## CHAPTER I.

On March 1st, 1917, the great war had reached a condition that seemed hopeless. The world's prominent men had become silent, after having been led at various times during 1916 into either having become false prophets of peace or having proposed some remedy that no one paid any attention to.

Military operations in 1916 had achieved no results, excepting to kill all hope of either side overcoming the other. Germany's capture of Verdun had been at such a cost that none of its military writers had pointed to it, as proof of their ability to overcome the numerous defenses of the French between Verdun and Paris. Any hope of exhausting the French numerically had been lost in the constant arrivals of Russian troops at Marseilles. The English had taken over still more of the French line, had in course of many months forced back the Germans at a rate that, if kept up, would land them in Berlin in the year 1942. At other fronts the game of give and take showed no signs of any ending.

Germany had shown such ability in systematizing its food supply problem that the grumbling of its populace, after becoming accustomed to certain daily privations, had practically ceased. It had given no chance to the Allies to make any creditable calculations, as to for how many years it could continue to avoid starvation.

Financially the belligerents appeared to be steadily tending towards the conditions of Mexico, which had apparently ceased to bother about finances, but cheerfully kept on fighting just the same. America had bought back nearly all of the American securities owned in Europe before the war, and, under the influence of her new and successful banking enterprises in South America had begun to purchase in large amounts and at bargain prices some of the choicest of Europe's South American investments. America had shown a decided preference for these over Allied bonds, which had been on a steady decline for months. It was for the buyer to choose, and Europe to sell that which was saleable.

The monthly losses on both sides had risen on an average of 50 per cent. over corresponding periods of 1916, owing largely to increase in efficiency and volume of the artillery fire.

All of this had caused a year of very great change in the minds of men. Optimism born of the excitement of war had gradually yielded to gloom. Prophets of evil were listened to more eagerly than those who had erred too many times in predicting victories and peace. That the world was facing a cataclysm rather than a catastrophe had become a common thought, and comparison was made with the probable feelings of the people of the time of the flood of Biblical times, who from the mountain sides watched the daily rise of the deepening waters.

## CHAPTER II.

In the United States prosperity, fortified by the abundant crops of 1916, had continued. Roosevelt had been elected as President, and since that event had preferred the haunts of beasts to those of men, had buried himself in the woods in midwinter and had maintained a most remarkable silence. An ominous silence it seemed to many, with the eyes of the world wearily turned towards him as each day this man, who loved deeds better than precedents, who led his people better than he listened to them, closer to that seat of power that was greater now than that of any ruler in the world, the Presidency of the United States.

## CHAPTER III.

At noon on March 4, 1917, Theodore Roosevelt became chief ruler of the world's greatest republic.

His inaugural address was about what was expected until he came to its closing clause, which, to the amazement of his hearers and of the country and the world, read as follows :

**“So far as power is given me it will be my determined intention to sever within the present year diplomatic consular and trade relations with all foreign countries that are not now or may not in the meantime become republics.”**

Immediately after the close of his address it was given out to the press that on February 1, Roosevelt had written personally to all United States ambassadors and ministers in the foreign lands as follows, accompanied by a request that the letter should not be opened before March 4, 1917. It read as follows :

“That you may have better opportunity to understand instructions that you may receive after March 4, 1917, I am writing below

a brief explanation of the following paragraph that will close the address that I hope to deliver on March 4, 1917:

“‘So far as power is given me, it will be my determined intention to sever within the present year diplomatic consular and trade relations with all foreign countries that are not now or may not in the meantime become republics.’

“The ideals of the United States are sufficiently set forth in the Declaration of Independence of July 4, 1776.

“Since that date many republics have come into being. All of this continent south of Canada is governed by citizens elected by citizens.

“France, Portugal and Switzerland are republics.

“That such form of government is possible to any race has been proven by nearly a century and a half of experience.

“Internationally during this period war has occurred between monarchies and between republics and monarchies, but between republics very rarely. The reasons for this I will not attempt at this time to describe.

“Owing to the Great War, the major conditions prevailing throughout the world are without precedent. Nations useful to themselves and to mankind are destroying each other so successfully that we face the possibility of a cataclysm to follow this catastrophe. Remedies founded upon precedent have failed. It is timely to consider a remedy without precedent, and to act quickly rather than to consider too long, remembering one day saved to peace, at the end means thousands of lives.

“America has welcomed the birth of every new republic. Within the present year, if I have the power, America will demand the death of all monarchies, and complete its service to the world.

“By a policy that will be always true to the ideals of America I expect through peaceful yet forceful means to bring this war to an end within the present year.

“Yours truly,

“THEODORE ROOSEVELT.”

#### CHAPTER IV.

On March 5, 1917, Roosevelt dismissed the Turkish embassy in a few words, explaining that it was no longer a republic and an example was important for the new policy.

The effect of all this upon the world was beyond description. Amazement, misunderstanding, wild approvals of hope, suspicions of a presumed madman, all blended together in one confused note.

United States Senator Elihu Root had arrived in London on March 3, and on the following morning had informed the press that he was there as the personal representative of President Roosevelt, and had an engagement to meet Lord Grey and the French minister that afternoon.

Root began by telling Grey that Roosevelt's idea was simple and practicable. That Roosevelt believed that peace could only be had with a German republic. That to bring about a republic in Germany, example was most important, and enough large republics to make the new idea of boycotting all nations not republics, an irresistible weapon, that in time would bring even Japan into the sisterhood of republics. Root argued that republics had rarely made war upon each other. And he told him more of Roosevelt's ideas that were not made public.

Grey believed it impossible to consider it for England. But Root argued that England's assent made the plan at once possible, and even probable, and that it insured beyond question England's great object of the war—the end of German militarism.

The apparent fact that the United States would sever relations with England if she failed to assent was not alluded to. Space forbids description of the turmoil in England. Briefly, just as a Republican party had begun to take shape, the Minister of France asked audience of the king, and the presence of the British Cabinet. Then occurred that greatest up to that time of all historic occasions. The French minister told the King that France, who would not sue for peace to an enemy, was now on her knees before her great ally, and in the name of the women of France, her old men and her children, for there was not much left of her manhood, prayed the English King to make this noble sacrifice, assuring to himself and to his heirs the gratitude of the world for centuries to come.

In the presence of the silent Russian minister, whom the Frenchman had asked to accompany him, he pledged the prayers of France that God should bring to the Russian Czar this new understanding of the need of the world.

The King, overcome by emotion, looked into the faces of his ministers and there read the doom of monarchy. He called Earl Grey to his side, and told him of his wishes and that he wished to avoid losing a minute of such intensely valuable time. Grey agreed that a decision was timely then and there, and, descending from his throne, the King advanced to the French minister, grasped both his hands, and assured him that he would sign the abdication before he left the chamber.



## CHAPTER V.

Upon news of this, America immediately recalled her ministers from Austria and Russia. It was secretly explained to Russia by France that it was important to Roosevelt's policy to enforce it vigorously, and with impartiality.

The ministers at Washington of the two countries received at the same time their passports, and no other explanation was offered than that they did not represent republics.

America then issued a stirring appeal to all republics to help the cause by similar action. Brazil immediately responded by dismissing the Russian and Central Powers' embassies, and the rest of the republics took similar action.

Not since August, 1914, the beginning of the war, were events so crowded together. The public mind was suddenly plunged after months of gloom and despair, into wild hopes of liberty and peace. Democracy became a mania, any effort to check which only suggested revolution.

Greece forced the issue quickly by a revolution, and the royal family escaped on a British warship.

Holland's Queen abdicated one week after the English King, and was elected Provisional President, which was later confirmed by a popular election, to the delight of the suffragists of England and America.

The King of Sweden was, unfortunately, assassinated by an insane socialist, and was succeeded by a republic.

Nothing happened in Russia at first, and England and France naturally avoided any suggestion of severing relations with their great ally.

## CHAPTER VI.

In the meantime the German censor had endeavored to keep out all news of these events. But it was too important, and crept across the borders, yet the effect was such that the Kaiser ordered the censorship removed. Then began the last exhibition of Teutonic rage and loyalty to the Kaiser that the world was ever to witness. Germany's answer was to launch the long-prepared bolt against England. Simultaneously the German fleet gave battle, seventy-eight Zeppelins flew to England, and the drive towards Calais began. By skilful work of its submarines, the preponderance of the British fleet was so nearly overcome that when the last German warship disappeared under the waters, there was scarcely a half-dozen British ships afloat to claim the victory.

The Zeppelin raid killed over 3000 people in London, and caused most destructive fires. The German army pressed the British back to the very gates of Calais before they became exhausted in front of a small but fresh body of English only that day landed from the transports. Had the British had at that moment 10,000 cavalry left, they could have ridden 100 miles towards Berlin, so completely had the Germans exhausted their reserves.

At this juncture every American minister was ordered to press hard for an armistice, and both sides were glad to agree.

At the Peace Conference Germany proposed, her fleet gone and her armies unable to follow up her victories, and her food problem desperate, though well concealed, to retire to her boundaries as before the war, paying nor receiving no indemnity. The Alsace and Lorraine question arose and it was settled that elections in those states should decide whether they were to belong to Germany or to France. Germany losing was to receive a certain indemnity from France.

When discussion of resumption of diplomatic and consular relations was reached, Germany was informed that it was now the fixed intention of America, England, France and Portugal to have no such relations with any country not a republic, and that most of the South American republics had signified a similar intention. The four European republics represented at the conference furthermore announced that they had on that day, for the sole purpose of showing their intent, withdrawn their ministers from Spain, a neutral nation.

The Central Powers immediately withdrew, and the conference broke up, but not until an agreement to extend the armistice for ten days more was reached.

Russia was left in an embarrassing position, and sought a private conference between Czar and Kaiser. There the Czar offered to sacrifice the throne if the Kaiser would, but the Kaiser refused.

In the meantime, a great cry for peace arose in Germany, and again the conference convened. A compromise was reached by which diplomatic relations were agreed upon, to last for a fixed and unchangeable period of three months only.

Back to Berlin marched what was left of the glorious German legions, with the proud boast that no enemy had stepped foot on German soil.

## CHAPTER VII.

After that matters rapidly subsided to a saner basis. When Germany began to realize that with an enormous debt they could

not trade outside of Austria and Turkey great dissatisfaction arose. At the same time to have another chance to win the world's trade supremacy, offsetting the war burden by no cost of building up and maintaining another army and navy, looked very alluring. The Kaiser, at heart a patriot above all things, one day saw a great light. "England wants her boast that she killed the militarism of Germany, and Germany wants her place in the sun. They shall both have their wish," quoth the Kaiser, "and from now on the best man wins." And he smiled as he thought of the future of Germany with no armament to maintain, and the world open for her trade without fear of war.

And so it happened in the world, as it always had in every little hamlet, every city, every State, every nation, that the best man won at the game of commerce. And Germany, keen at competition, caused every other nation to greatly increase its efficiency, to the end that the cost of living gradually fell all over the world. And in time to come it was said that the greatest boon that came out of the Great War, was the results that sprang from those two years of intensive study of food distribution and prevention of waste, that was forced upon the German nation.

Without having told any one of his design, the Kaiser walked into the Reichstag and handed a roll to its president, announcing verbally that it contained his abdication in favor of a republic. The whole Reichstag was on its feet in protest, but the Kaiser waived them down and told them that his step was irrevocable. "Yet," he continued, "if I may make your path easier, and, which is most important, speedier, I will first lay upon you my last commands, even going beyond my rights as a sovereign to do so." Turning to the Socialist leader, he commanded him to make the necessary resolution to declare a republic, and when the motion was seconded by the leader of the opposition, also by command of the Kaiser, he raised his hand and commanded every member to vote aye upon the resolution. Before he could leave the chamber he was elected Provisional President, with full powers over all foreign relations, including the right to make war.

The next day Roosevelt gave out that no relations would be had by the United States with any republic whose Constitution did not provide that war could only be declared by vote of the legislative body. Germany corrected her position at once.

## CHAPTER VIII.

The Russian Czar immediately abdicated, as well as the Austrian Emperor. In Turkey a revolution occurred, and the Sultan

was poisoned out of respect to ancient custom when a government changed in Turkey.

Italy had already fallen into line, and the Balkan States soon followed. The positive assurance of trade isolation rapidly silenced the opposition to those desirous of democracy for itself.

Peace had come, and decrease of the enormous armies naturally began under dire economic pressure. Presently all nations saw that the future need of great armament was remote. Particularly after study of results of a declaration of war by Mexico against the United States, that occurred in August, 1917, as the result of another raid by Villa and another pursuit.

Roosevelt instantly ordered United States troops to leave Mexico, to the astonishment of the world. As soon as they were safely over the border, after fighting their way out, the republics of Germany, England and France, at the instigation of the United States, declared that if either nation invaded the soil of the other it would be, from that day until peace was declared, boycotted by all republics, as the act of severing relations had come to be called. Upon crossing the border, the Americans retired about twenty miles further. Ignoring the boycott, the Mexicans, fully confident that they were pursuing a cowardly enemy, poured over the border and found the enemy in one day, and also made a time record for a twenty-mile retreat, the few survivors surrendering at the Rio Grande. In the meantime, owing to the activity of German, French and English embassies in all other countries, Mexico City was deluged with boycotts of all republics, including those of South America. The Americans in the meantime, carefully avoided any pretense of crossing the Rio Grande. Mexico remained obdurate for a month, but there was no fighting, as her armies dared not again cross the boundary. She was forced to sue for peace. Then it was shown to the world that the republic that had not gone upon enemy soil during the war, held the power to demand an enormous indemnity from the republic that had assumed the offensive, because of the fact that the offensive nation had to remain under the international boycott until peace was declared, while the defensive nation was under no boycott. Roosevelt demanded an indemnity, but refused to name the amount, forcing Mexico to make offers. This she was absolutely obliged to do, and each bid was refused until a sum of \$100,000,000 was offered, whereupon Roosevelt accepted half that amount and peace was declared, and the boycott lifted from Mexico by all other nations.

## CHAPTER IX.

International consideration of this affair took the last prop from Preparedness everywhere. It was seen that had this principle been in force when Austria struck at Servia in 1914, Russia would have merely counseled Servia not to resist, and called upon Germany and all Europe to boycott Austria. Germany would not have struck, for Russia would not have mobilized her army. And Germany would have boycotted Austria, because the principle involved would have been too valuable for Germany's future defense. All of which spells, of course, that Austria never would have struck at Servia, and also that there would not have been any assassination of a crown prince and princess in Servia, because there would have been no such personages in a republic.

It came to pass that no international agreements were necessary. A few of the larger republics would agree on a boycott that was evidently for the good of the world in principle, and notify all other republics to follow their example. By reason of self-interest looking to their own defense in some future complication, and because any refusing was liable to a boycott for refusing, all naturally followed the leaders.

In 1918 a bill was introduced into the British Congress for an increase in England's navy, greatly reduced by the war. She was immediately notified by America, Germany, France and Russia that the day the bill passed she would be boycotted.

A great international joke on Uncle Sam occurred soon after the Mexican affair, that caused no less merriment in America than elsewhere, and served, as a good laugh often does, to make the victim even more popular than before.

An American citizen was arrested in Chili, charged with conspiracy with some Chilians who were fomenting a revolution. The American minister, a personal friend of the prisoner, demanded his immediate release. He was tried and was sentenced to ten years' imprisonment. Washington energetically backed up its minister, and demanded that the case be taken to the Hague Tribunal, threatening boycott if not agreed to. Any nation refusing to submit to the Hague Tribunal was then subject to boycott. Chili assented and released the prisoner under condition that he was to remain in the custody of the United States, to be returned to Chili if the case were decided in her favor. If United States failed to return the prisoner for any reason \$100,000 was to be paid to Chili. The prisoner escaped his guards at a Peruvian port on the trip north and was never heard of afterwards. When the case was heard at the Hague Chili won, and Uncle Sam had





all the court costs to pay for both sides, and \$100,000 to Chili for not returning the prisoner. The American minister to Chili was soon after recalled, with the explanation that the Government needed a more careful and less expensive representative, and the diplomatic profession all over the world took notice.

## CHAPTER X.

In these pages the writer has endeavored to show how the Great War could be ended and become a boon to the future. This is America's opportunity to bring the whole world under the influence of American ideals. It will be said to be a dream, but its possibilities of being real can be narrowed down to one definite point. Would England assent? With England's favorable action the whole scheme becomes instantly possible or probable. Why might England assent?

1. Because she has little to sacrifice, being nearly a democracy now.
2. Because of the terrible stress she is now under.
3. Because she would see a surety of abolishing in Europe for all future time the militarism of Germany.
4. That England would have the credit in history of making the step that caused the death of German militarism.

Because, assuming conditions in March, 1917, to be as forecast in the first chapter, there would practically be nothing else to do, in view of the fact, that if she refused Roosevelt would surely boycott her, which would starve her into subjection in two weeks.

The writer has jumbled together a lot of assumed events, in the attempt to give enough dramatic interest to insure a reading, and has touched upon only a few of the main obstacles. But a new and untried solution of the terrible problem is presented in hopes that the main idea may be worked out by wiser heads than his.

The reader may insert any one he desires as President of the United States in March, 1917. The name of Roosevelt is used because he is willing to ignore precedents when faced by new conditions and because he possesses the necessary courage and ability to act quickly. It is unnecessary to add that up to date of publication he had never read or heard of it.



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